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COVER 3: Don't wait to vaccinate



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Editor, Public Health Reports Parklawn Building, Room 13C-26 5600 Fishers Lane Rockville, MD 20857 (301) 443-0762 costly and more accessible than ophthalmological care. This study demonstrated that optometric practices are accessible during more weekend and evening hours and have shorter waiting periods for appointments and lower fees for routine eye examinations than ophthalmological practices.

The importance of practitioner fees is not limited to its impact on the Medicare Program. Since this study found that 50 percent of both ophthalmologists and optometrists were not accepting Medicare Part B assignment in 1987, lower fees represent an out-of-pocket savings to those Medicare beneficiaries using the services of nonparticipating providers.

During the past 14 years, 25 States modified their laws to permit optometrists to use therapeutic drugs in the treatment and management of ocular diseases. This study's findings provide further evidence as to the cost and availability of routine eye care by the nation's eye care providers as the remaining States debate optometry's role in providing eye care.

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